CLAIMS

We claim:

1.   A subscriber terminal comprising, in combination:

a processor;

a memory;

at least one digit sequence stored in the memory;

5   a translation routine executable by the processor (i) to receive digits entered by a user, (ii) to determine whether the digits entered by the user represent an incomplete set of digits, and (iii) in response to a determination that the digits entered by the user represent an incomplete set of digits, to automatically add one of the at least one digit sequence stored in the memory to the digits entered by the user so as to establish a complete set of digits,

10   whereby the subscriber terminal may send the complete set of digits into a communications network.

2.   The subscriber terminal of claim 1, further comprising a setup routine executable by the processor to prompt the user to specify the at least one digit sequence, to receive the at least one digit sequence, and to responsively store the at least one digit sequence in the memory.

3.   The subscriber terminal of claim 2, wherein the subscriber terminal is a wireless subscriber terminal.

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4. The subscriber terminal of claim 3, further comprising a Send button, wherein the translation routine is executed by the processor after the user enters digits and presses the Send button.

5. A subscriber terminal comprising, in combination:

a processor;

a memory;

5   at least one digit sequence stored in the memory;

a translation routine executable by the processor to receive digits entered by a user, and to determine whether the digits entered by the user represent an abbreviated extension, and, in response to a determination that the digits entered by the user represent an abbreviated extension, to automatically prepend one of the at least one digit sequence stored in the memory to the digits

10   entered by the user so as to establish a composite telephone number,

whereby the subscriber terminal may send the composite telephone number into a telecommunications network.

6. The subscriber terminal of claim 5, wherein the subscriber terminal is a wireless subscriber terminal.

7. The subscriber terminal of claim 5, further comprising an abbreviated dialing setup routine executable by the processor to prompt the user to specify the at least one digit

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8.   The subscriber terminal of claim 5, further comprising a Send button, wherein the translation routine is executed by the processor after the user enters digits and presses the Send button.

9.   The subscriber terminal of claim 5, wherein the subscriber terminal is a landline subscriber terminal.

10.   The subscriber terminal of claim 5, further comprising:

a phone book stored in the memory, the phone book defining a plurality of telephone numbers; and

a phone book lookup routine executable by the processor to receive the digits entered by the user and to determine whether the digits entered by the user match part of at least one telephone number defined by the phone book.

11.   The subscriber terminal of claim 10, further comprising:

a prompting routine executable by the processor, in response to a determination that (a) the digits entered by the user match part of at least one telephone number defined by the phone book and (b) the composite number does not match at least one telephone number defined by the phone book, to present a prompt requesting a selection of a telephone number from a group comprising (i) the composite number and (ii) the at least one telephone number defined by the phone book.

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12. The subscriber terminal of claim 10, further comprising:

a routine executable by the processor, in response to a determination that (a) the digits entered by the user match part of one telephone number defined by the phone book and (b) the composite number does match the telephone number defined by the phone book, to send the composite telephone number into a telecommunications network.

13. A subscriber terminal comprising, in combination:

a processor;

a memory;

a plurality of digit sequences stored in the memory, each digit sequence having a respective length;

a translation routine executable by the processor to receive digits entered by a user, and to determine whether the digits entered by the user represent an abbreviated extension having a length, and, in response to a determination that the digits entered by the user represent an abbreviated extension, to automatically prepend one of the digit sequences stored in the memory to the digits entered by the user so as to establish a composite telephone number,

whereby the subscriber terminal may send the composite telephone number into a telecommunications network.

14. The subscriber terminal of claim 13, further comprising a selection routine executable by the processor to determine the length of the abbreviated extension entered by the user and to use the length as a basis to select one of the digit sequences stored in the memory.

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15. A method for providing abbreviated dialing in a subscriber terminal, the subscriber terminal including a processor and a memory, the method comprising:

executing an abbreviated dialing setup routine to prompt a user to specify one or more sequences of digits, and to receive one or more sequences of digits, and to responsively store one or more sequences of digits in the memory, each sequence of digits having a respective length;

executing a routine to receive digits entered by a user, and to determine whether the digits entered by the user represent an abbreviated extension, and, in response to a determination that the digits entered by the user represent an abbreviated extension, to automatically prepend one of the sequences of digits stored in the memory to the digits entered by the user so as to establish a composite telephone number,

whereby the terminal may send the composite telephone number into a telecommunications network.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein the subscriber terminal is a wireless subscriber terminal.

17. The method of claim 15, wherein the subscriber terminal is a landline subscriber terminal.

18. The method of claim 15, wherein the subscriber terminal further comprises a Send button, and wherein the translation routine is executable by the processor after a user enters digits and presses the Send button.

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19.   The method of claim 15, wherein the subscriber terminal further comprises a phone book stored in the memory, the phone book defining a plurality of telephone numbers, the method further comprising:

5   programming the subscriber terminal with a phone book lookup routine executable by the processor to receive digits entered by a user, to determine whether the digits entered by the user match part of at least one telephone number defined by the phone book.

20.   The method of claim 17, further comprising:

executing a prompting routine, in response to a determination that (a) the digits entered by the user match part of at least one telephone number defined by the phone book and (b) the

5   composite number does not match at least one telephone number defined by the phone book, to present a prompt requesting a selection of a telephone number from a group comprising (i) the composite number and (ii) the at least one telephone number defined by the phone book.

21.   A method for providing abbreviated dialing in a subscriber terminal, the subscriber terminal including a processor and a memory, the method comprising:

prompting a user to specify at least one digit sequence to be stored in the memory;

5   receiving the at least one digit sequence specified by the user;

storing the at least one digit sequence specified by the user in the memory;

receiving digits entered by a user;

determining whether the digits entered represent an abbreviated extension;

making a determination about the length of the abbreviated extension entered by a user;

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10 using the length of the abbreviated extension as a basis to select one of the at least one digit sequence stored in the memory; and

automatically prepending the selected digit sequence to the digits entered by a user so as to establish a composite set of digits,

whereby the terminal may send the composite set of digits into a network.

22. A method for providing abbreviated dialing in a subscriber terminal, the subscriber terminal including a processor, a memory, and a first and a second digit sequence stored in the memory, each digit sequence having a respective length, the method comprising:

5 receiving digits entered by a user;

determining whether the digits entered by the user represent an abbreviated extension, the abbreviated extension having a length;

making a determination about the length of the abbreviated extension entered by the user;

using the length of the abbreviated extension as a basis to select one of the digit

10 sequences stored in the memory; and

automatically prepending the selected digit sequence to the digits entered by the user so as to establish a composite set of digits,

whereby the terminal may send the composite set of digits into a network.

23. The method of claim 22, wherein selecting one of the digit sequences stored in memory comprises:

if the length of the abbreviated extension is 4 digits, then selecting the first digit

5 sequence; and

if the length of the abreviated extension is 5 digits, then selecting the second digit

sequence.